Oxfordshire Guardian
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Oxford hotel to host Lohri extravaganza p2

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Thursday, January 2 - Wednesday, January 8, 2014 Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

COME TO OUR TOWN CENTRE

Council leader hopes for more local business

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

TOWN council leader Sandy Lovatt believes the footfall in Abingdon has improved but says he would like to see more people visiting local businesses.

Initiatives such as two hours free parking on all town centre car parks have helped, while Abingdon Museum has exceeded its target of 30,000 visitors a year.

The Narrows, Abingdon's newest pub, is also said to be thriving, while the Crown and Thistle hotel has been revamped and is back open for business.

"We wanted to bring people in to the town centre and along with a whole bunch of other measures we're doing that," said Cllr Lovatt.

"What we're not quite getting at the moment is people actually using the shops enough."

District councillors hoped a new scheme, installed in the town last year, would encourage shoppers back to the town's retailers.

A ByBox was installed next to Abingdon's library last Christmas, providing shoppers with a facility to collect goods they have bought online.

Cllr Lovatt recognises its benefits but feels it may not have had the desired impact.

"It is a nice idea but I don't know how effective it has been," he said.

"It is not a great measure and it has not been as effective as the free parking."

He added: "We're bringing in the people.

"If you come into the town to pick something up from your ByBox they might want to do something else while they are here."

The ByBox provides consumers with a secure place to pick up goods they have purchased online.

When shoppers order a product online they can pick it up from a locker where the item is stored securely.

A text message is sent to the consumer's phone with a security code which will open the locker on collection of the parcel.

Stuart Miller, CEO of ByBox, said: "We feel strongly that the growth of online retail needn't be at the expense of the smaller retailer.

"This is all about encouraging online retail and High Street stores – the lifeblood of small towns – to work together in harmony."

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'A topic that stirs up strong views'

By **James Booker**
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AN OXFORD University study has found women to be twice as concerned as men that video games have a direct impact on real-world aggressive behaviour.

Over 2,500 people were surveyed in the study, conducted in March by the Oxford Internet Institute at the university.

Participants were asked to rate how often they played computer games, and some were also asked the statement 'Violent video/computer games cause real-life aggression'.

The poll also found non-gamers were three and a half times more likely to think that gaming had a direct correlation with real-life aggression.

The results also showed six times the amount of 18 to 24 year olds had what is termed 'concrete' gaming experience – people who admit to playing computer games on most days – than the older population (65 and above).

There were no demographic differences for the group that neither agreed nor disagreed with a gaming-aggressive link.

The study says that as yet there is no scientific agreement on whether electronic games can cause harmful behaviour or not.

Yet it says the public debate on this topic has attracted growing interest, with concerns heightened after events such as mass shootings.

As the number of people who take up gaming is on the increase yearly, the researcher suggests the effects of games are likely to become even more of a focus for future research.

Study author Dr Andrew Przybylski, said: "Whether electronic games are a good thing or a bad thing remains an open question, but it is a topic that stirs up strong views.

"At present, the spotlight is on electronic games in popular, legislative and scientific debates. This study is the first step towards understanding a wider aspect of that conversation. As the average age of online gamers continues to rise, this study suggests that the public debate around electronic games may become less polarised.

"History tells us that there have been other examples where novel forms of entertainment have met with social concern about their negative effect on society as a whole."

Appeal after burglary

POLICE are appealing for witnesses following a burglary in Yarnton at around 10pm on December 20, when three offenders forced entry into a property on Meadow Way.

The occupiers disturbed the offenders at the house, causing them to run off towards a vehicle parked on a grass verge on the A44 northbound carriageway near to the Budgens store.

PC Richie Iwanoff, of Cherwell CID, said: "This incident was particularly traumatic for the victims, who disturbed the offenders.

"The men ran from Meadow Way towards the A44 via a well-used cut through.

"We believe they got into a car, which was waiting for them and parked on the grass embankment. Vehicles are not usually parked at the location, so the car would have stood out.

"I am keen to speak to anyone that witnessed any persons from around 9pm to 10pm in Meadow Way, or anyone that saw the vehicle parked on the embankment, to contact me via the 101 number."

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Oxford hotel to host Lohri extravaganza

IFFLEY'S Tree Hotel is hosting a Punjabi Lohri Festival extravaganza on January 11, complete with dhol drumming, bonfires, traditional dancing and special curries during the evening.

It is part of the hotel's curry festival being held throughout January, which sees a different curry being featured each Saturday during the month.

Kavita Pal, managing director of The Tree Hotel Group, said: "Our regulars have demanded a repeat of last year's successful Lohri celebration and our special dishes from around India month.

"January can be quite a dull time for people, so we are thrilled to throw some colour and fun into the mix and more importantly spice it up with our range of curries that are rarely seen authentically in this country.

"At The Tree Hotel we pride ourselves on our celebrations from cultures around the globe and enjoying them together.

"We love bringing together members of the local community and guests from across Oxfordshire to take part in our festivities to create an atmosphere of joy and entertainment.

"We like to do things a bit differently; we like to spice things up!"

Each evening begins at 7pm, and prices start from £9.99.

• *Kavita Pal, managing director of The Tree Hotel*

Saddle up for cycling scheme

A SCHEME to teach adults how to ride a bike and gain more confidence on the road has been launched by Oxford City Council, in relaxed one or two-hour sessions.

Run in partnership with the Broken Spoke Bike Co-op, the programme provides on-road cycle training to any adult in Oxford at a cost of £5.

A free cycle training programme offered by the council in 2013 helped identify a demand in the city for training and for people to learn from scratch.

Cllr Colin Cook, board member for city development, said: "The subsidised on-road cycle training is part of the wider Oxford Cycle City initiative, which aims to increase cycling and improve the cycling experience in Oxford.

"There are lots of cyclists in Oxford but it can be a bit daunting to cycle on the roads, so this training will help boost people's confidence.

"I am pleased that we are working with Broken Spoke to provide further training for local people to encourage them out on their bikes in 2014."

It costs £5 per session, and require participants to bring their own bikes. For more details and to book, go to www.bsbcoop.org/cycling-courses.

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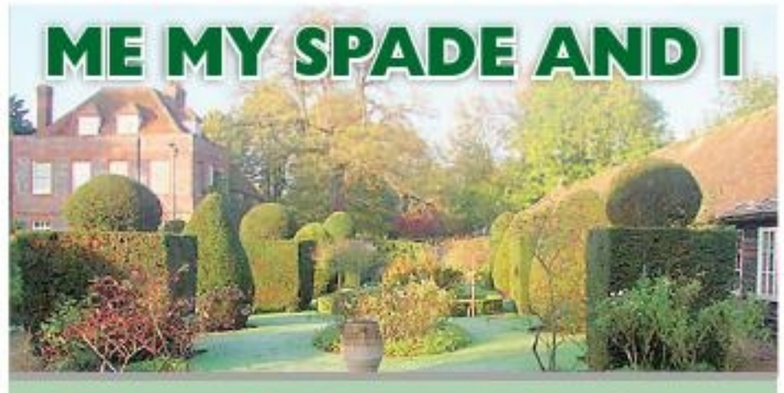

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Brookes to play role in energy debate project

OXFORD Brookes is to play a key role in a major project set to tackle the world's growing energy debate.

The university, along with the University of Nottingham, will be given £1.8million of government funding in the research and development of finding more uses for 'waste' gases.

Entitled the C1NET project, the drive will specifically focus on capture carbon by harnessing the ability of certain bacteria to 'eat' waste gases such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and methane and turn them into usable chemicals, such as fuels or bioplastics.

By James Booker
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

It is hoped that significant discoveries as a result of the project can ease the planet's reliance on fossil fuels, and reduced emission of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

David Fell, Professor of Systems Biology at Oxford Brookes, will be the co-investigator in the project.

"Elsewhere in the world there is major interest in studying the biology of organisms which are able to grow on gases such as carbon monoxide, but the UK lags behind the curve," he said.

"This exciting project aims to build a new community of UK academics to unravel the biological, chemical and process engineering aspects of gas fermentation and, crucially, help steer their commercial application."

The collaboration is part of a wider £18million project to create 13 networks in industrial biotechnology and bioenergy funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

It is hoped the networks will provide innovative research that will benefit the UK economy.

The collaborative Networks in Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy (BBSRC NIBB) will boost interaction between the UK's world-leading researchers and industry, as well as pooling skills from academia and business to develop projects with the potential to overcome major challenges in the industrial biotechnology and bioenergy arena.

Minister for Universities and Science David Willetts said: "To get ahead in the global race we need to turn our world-beating science and research into world-beating products and services, as set out in our Industrial Strategy. "These networks will unlock the huge potential of biotechnology and bioenergy, such as finding innovative ways to use leftover food."

Blood donors: 'They are an inspiration to us all'

BLOOD donors from all over the county have been recognised at a special awards dinner in Oxford.

Four donors from Oxfordshire were joined by 41 others from across the south at the The Oxford Spires Four Pillars Hotel.

They were all rewarded for their achievement of either 75 or 100 life saving donations and thanked for their generosity.

The donors were presented with crystal awards by guest speaker Simon Cooper, who has cystic fibrosis and received blood during a liver transplant and received blood, platelets and plasma during a double lung transplant.

Dominic Sutherland, lead donor relations manager at NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "We would like to thank these donors for their commitment and dedication.

"They are an inspiration to us all and we hope that others will follow in their footsteps.

"It is such a simple act, but can make a huge difference to someone in need."

For more information or to book an appointment call the Donor Line on 0300 123 23 23 or visit www.blood.co.uk.

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• *(From left to right) Jaqueline Polley, Jean Shugar, Simon Cooper, Brian Sessions and Diane Warner at the ceremony*

Man, 30, is robbed and assaulted

A 30-YEAR-OLD man was assaulted and robbed following an incident in Cowley on Sunday, when he was walking along Wilkins Road.

The incident took place at around 10.30pm, when the victim was approached by two men who asked him for directions.

They then asked him for money and when the victim refused, he was robbed of his iPhone and assaulted, which continued after he had fallen to the floor.

The men made off with £10, while the victim found his phone on the pavement nearby.

Both offenders were black and around 30-years-old. The first was bald, about 5ft 7ins and was clean shaven.

The second had short black hair and was of a skinny build.

Anyone with information is asked to contact investigating officer Detective Constable Charlotte Dunford from Oxford local CID on 101.

Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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'We could have done more' - council chief

OXFORD City Council's chief executive has admitted the body could have managed a recent planning application better 'with the benefit of hindsight'.

A recent judicial review found the council to have behaved in the correct manner while handling the recent Roger Dudman Way development dispute.

The review, carried out by former president of Royal Town Planning Institute, Vincent Goodstadt, found the council had 'fulfilled its statutory and legal requirements in all areas'.

However, in the report, Mr Goodstadt said: "The findings of this review are that the controversy created by the Roger Dudman Way development lies in series of separated but clearly inter-related individual decisions, assumptions and judgements made at each stage of the planning process.

"The combined effect resulted in inadequate consultation on the proposals and a less detailed assessment of the proposals than there could have been."

Mr Goodstadt also stressed more time should have been spent on pre-application discussions and longer consultation periods.

By James Booker
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

He also pointed out there was a slight lack of clarity in the final choices put before councillors, and recommended a more systematic evaluation against all relevant policies.

Peter Sloman, chief executive of the council, said: "I agree with the report that, with the benefit of hindsight, the council and other organisations could have done more in this particular case.

"We want all the developments in our city to be of the highest quality. I also accept the report's recommendations for improving aspects of the service.

"I am pleased that the report acknowledges that improvements are already under way and that the service is committed to learning from experience and not waiting for an external prompt into action. In particular I want to expand the scope and effectiveness of our consultation arrangements. I want Oxford City Council to be recognised as an organisation which puts collaboration at the heart of its planning processes."

University scheme gets national award

AN OXFORD Brookes award scheme has been nominated for a national university honour.

The Guardian University Awards panel has chosen the Oxford Brookes Social Entrepreneur Awards (OBSEA), From Passion to Action, in its Enhancing Student Experience category.

OBSEA was launched in September 2012, and has attracted over 300 participants during that time.

It has been lauded for being a key learning tool to enhance student employability, but also as a vehicle for promoting social entrepreneurship.

• *Will McCallum with Olympic rowing champion Katherine Grainger at the From Passion to Action launch (Picture courtesy of Oxford Brookes University)*

Roberto Daniele, OBSEA Programme Lead, said: "Enhancing the student experience is at the heart of this university and the news is a wonderful endorsement of our work, regardless of whether we win.

"To be shortlisted is in itself no small achievement in the face of nationwide competition and so much good work going on in the HE sector in this area."

OBSEA Programme Coordinator, Jeff Willmore, added: "It's very exciting news and a great tribute to the staff, students and recent graduates who have participated in this programme.

"We are hugely grateful to them all and to our partners, UnLtd, for their constant support, and to Student Hubs for their work in helping us to deliver the programme."

The University Awards were launched last year, with this year's winners being announced at a special ceremony in London on February 24.

Don't worry about the fire strike

EVERY emergency call to the fire service in Oxfordshire tomorrow will be responded to, despite the latest round of nationwide fire service strikes.

That is the pledge of the county's chief fire officer, David Etheridge, as he moves to reassure any concerns that emergency calls will be unattended.

Industrial action by the fire service has been rife in recent months, with officials unhappy with government over proposed pension reforms. A mixture of non-striking full-time personnel and on-call staff will again provide cover locally - the same arrangement used during eight recent strike periods – the latest being New Year's Day.

"We are a 24-7, 365 days a year operation," said Mr Etheridge. "And I would like reassure people again that their Fire and Rescue Service will deal with each and every 999 fire call it receives during these scheduled strike periods. It's the festive season and many people enjoy using candles in their home and I would encourage them to ensure that candles are extinguished before people go to bed to help avoid the possibility of them causing a fire."

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Managing Director Josh Florey feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps.

Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Oxfordshire from their local depots and Josh is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truthis that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Josh a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Man dressed as Santa robs Oxford store

A KNIFE-wielding Santa Claus is being wanted by police after a robbery of a store in Cowley.

Police say a man dressed as Father Christmas entered the Next store in Oxford Retail Park on December 23 at 9.30am and walked through to the staff area.

He proceeded to threaten a worker with a knife and demanded cash from a safe.

After making off with the cash, he escaped on a bicycle and was last seen heading towards Blackbird Leys bridge.

The offender is described as in his 30s, white, of medium build and between 5ft 9ins tall.

Under the outfit, he was reportedly wearing a blue fleece and jeans.

Det Sgt Mark Stalder said: "This was a frightening incident which has left the staff member very shaken.

"We would urge anyone shopping around the Oxford Retail Park this morning who saw a man on a bike, dressed as Father Christmas, and who has not spoken to us already to get in touch as a matter of urgency."

If you have any information please contact Det Sgt Stalder via 101.

Encouraging people to sign up and change

A NEW campaign has been launched today to get families across the Thames Valley cutting down on the amount of sugar and fat they are consuming this month.

The Change4Life Smart Swaps campaign, launched by Public Health England, is encouraging families to swap sugary or fatty foods with a healthier option.

Sugary drinks can be swapped to diet or milk and water, and you can buy reduced fat cheese, butter, and low sugar cereals instead of your usual choice.

Figures from the National Child Measurement Programme show that more than a quarter of children aged 10-11 in the Thames Valley carry excess weight.

"These figures show that more needs to be done to help local families cut out certain unhealthy elements of their diet, in order to improve their health," said Professor Kevin Fenton, director for Health and Wellbeing, Public Health England.

"Swapping like-for-like food in your diet could help you cut out surprising levels of fat, sugar and ultimately calories.

"We're committed to doing as much as possible to support families to make these swaps."

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

You can sign up to the Smart Swaps campaign online and you will receive a pack of healthy meal ideas, fun fridge magnets and money-off vouchers.

TV chef and Change4Life ambassador Ainsley Harriott added: "You'd be surprised about the amount of sugar and saturated fat you could cut from your diet just by swapping a few simple things – you won't even notice the difference.

"The Smart Swaps campaign has so many ideas for swaps and recipes, there has never been a better time to make a healthier change to your diet than now."

You can sign up to the campaign online via the Change4Life website.

Do you have an Oxford story?

Contact James
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or on **01235 516931**

Jayden inquest opened and adjoured

AN INQUEST in to the death of teenager Jayden Parkinson has been opened and adjourned at Oxfordshire Coroner's Court.

The 17-year-old from Didcot, who had been staying at One Foot Forward youth hostel in Iffley Road, was discovered in an established grave on December 18.

Police officers formally identified the body as the missing teenager on December 20 but a post-mortem found the cause of death to be inconclusive.

Areas around Didcot and Upton were searched throughly after concerns grew over her whereabouts.

She had last been seen on December 3 at Didcot Parkway train station.

However, officers discovered Jayden's body in a grave in All Saints' cemetery in Didcot.

Det Ch Supt Andy Murray said at a press conference that her family "remain heartbroken" and 'devastated".

A 22-year-old man from Reading has been charged with murder while a 17-year-old boy from Didcot has been charged with assisting an offender.

No date had been set for the inquest as the Guardian went to print.

• *Jayden Parkinson*

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News Bites

Cholsey theft

AN ELDERLY couple in Cholsey have had money and jewellery stolen after their house was ransacked by burglars.

The offenders broke into the house in Brookside through the conservatory window between December 14 and 16.

Anyone with any information should get in touch with PC Katie Ford from Didcot police station on 101.

Police appeal

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after gold and silver items were stolen from a house in Faringdon just before Christmas.

Offenders forced open a ground floor window of the house in Church Street before helping themselves to gold and silver jewellery.

They also stole other silver objects, including spoons and coffee pots.

iPads stolen

TWO iPads and a laptop have been taken from a house in Henley.

The house, in Niagra Road, was targeted and thieves entered the premises through an unsecured front door.

Call PC Claire Ashton from Didcot police station on 101 with information.

Shopping centre plans 'improved'

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

PLANS have been resubmitted for the regeneration of the West Way Shopping Centre in Botley, after residents voiced their concerns to the developer's original scheme.

Doric Properties say that the plans have been "significantly improved" following consultations with residents, including local group West Way Community Concern.

Changes to the plans include alterations to design and appearance, a reduced height of up to four storeys along West Way, additional space for small and independent traders, and a piazza with space for a farmers market.

Simon Hillcox, of Doric Properties, said: "We're delighted by the changes to the scheme, which have transformed the design and which have been informed by our discussions with the community.

"We've taken off up to four storeys on West Way and made significant improvements to the way the scheme looks."

Other additions to the plans were also made, including a new hotel, gym, and a reduced number of student rooms in high-end student accommodation.

Mr Hillcox added: "We've brought in a gym, as requested, and had very positive discussions with a farmers market about using the piazza.

"We've also included a small hotel on Westminster Way, which will provide a valuable service locally. This means we have been able to reduce student numbers to 525.

"We hope that people will have a look at the new designs, which can be seen on our website: www.doricproperties.com."

As well as the changes, a number of plans from the original design have been retained, such as a new library, two new community halls, a six-screen cinema and a number of restaurants.

There will also be a new supermarket, Baptist church and a 550-space car park, with three hours free parking.

• *An artist's impression of how the new complex may look*

The changes come after more than 500 people demonstrated against the original plans back in November, as they formed a human chain around the existing complex.

Vale of White Horse District Council will now consider the plans, with a six-week public consultation expected to start on Monday.

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Get outside and enjoy the parks of the city!

OXFORD City Council are promoting the city's parks and green spaces for the new year, and are encouraging people to burn off energy after the festive period.

Five parks have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag award, while there are 87 play areas on offer for children to enjoy.

There are also zip wires, climbing walls, tennis, sand pits, swings, sensory gardens and ponds, along with skate parks at Fry's Hill, Sunnymead Park and Meadow Lane.

Residents are also encouraged to go stargazing at South Park, a designated 'Dark Sky' site, on a clear night and admire the view over the city's spires.

For those who are trying to lose weight in the New Year, there is a new 12-station Fitness Trail at Cowley Marsh covering 1km.

There are also orienteering courses at Shotover and Cutteslowe Park for residents to walk, jog or run, or they can try the outdoor gym adiZone at Court Place Farm.

More information about any of the sites run by the council's Parks and Open Spaces team can be found at www.oxford.gov.uk/parks, or by calling 01865 252240.

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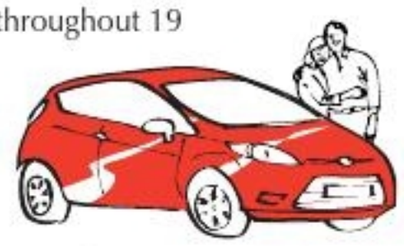

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Firefighting trio clock up 100 years of service

• *(From left) Steve Edginton, Charlie Williams and Dave Hemming*

THREE firefighters based at Burford Fire Station have been recognised for their work to protect the community, after accumulating a combined total of 100 years of service.

Charlie Williams, Steve Edginton and Dave Hemming have attended an estimated 13,000 calls between them, and have been presented with certificates to mark the milestone.

They also received a commemorative brass plaque from Burford Town Council and engraved watches at a ceremony held at Burford Bowls Club.

Charlie, 56, joined the fire service in 1979, and said: "My family are hugely supportive of my role and often I am called out at a moment's notice to go out an attend an incident.

"Being a firefighter runs in the family and I really do feel part of an excellent team at the fire station as we all work together, and you have to rely on each other to respond effectively to the call-outs that we get."

Steve, 52, joined the fire service in September 1980 rather reluctantly, but says he could now not see himself as anything else.

He said: "Back when I joined there was a relative shortage of personnel in the town and I reluctantly joined up, as I had never really given it much thought previously.

"It is a really exciting job to do and one of the best things about it is meeting people throughout the course of answering calls that I would not usually meet.

"There's also a great sense of camaraderie amongst the crews at Burford Fire Station – I have no intention of giving it up."

Dave, 59, has been with the service for 33 years, and said: "You never know when you arrive at work what you are going to be dealing with.

"I still get an adrenaline rush when my alerter goes and I am needed to respond to calls. That has not gone away despite me being an on-call firefighter for so long.

"The time has flown by, but it is such an enjoyable role. I never expected when I joined that I'd be doing it now."

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Post-mortem on river death man

A POST-mortem on a man found dead in the River Thames on Christmas Eve had proven to be 'inconclusive'.

Michael Griffiths, whose body was formally identified on Friday, had been missing since November 28.

He was reportedly travelling from London to his native Birmingham on that day.

However, he was reported missing and his body was found in the river near junction 8A of the M40 near Wheatley.

Due to the post-mortem proving inconclusive, further tests and toxicology reports have been requested by a pathologist.

These are estimated to take between four to six weeks to complete.

A Thames Valley Police statement read: "Mr Griffiths' family are being kept informed of the latest developments and are being supported by specially trained liaison officers at this time."

The force is jointly investigating Mr Griffiths' death along with West Mercia Police. At the time of print, his death is being treated as 'unexplained'.

News Bites

Laptop theft

POLICE are investigating a burglary in Wantage after six laptops were taken from a house.

Offenders forced open a window at the rear of the premises on Ormond Road on December 23, before stealing the computers, as well as a suitcase that may have been used to carry them.

Contact Det Con Shane Hedges from Abingdon police station on 101 if you have any information.

Kitchen blaze

BANBURY firefighters were called out to deal with a blaze on Christmas Day, after cooking was left unattended at a property in Coopers Gate in the town.

On arrival at around 5pm, crews found a grill pan that had been left alone had caught fire in the first-floor kitchen, although it was spotted by the occupiers quickly and they evacuated the house.

One person was treated for minor burns sustained when she discovered the fire, while the property suffered extensive smoke damage with the kitchen being affected by the heat from the fire.

Watch manager John Callaway said: "All this could have been prevented if the cooking had not been left unattended, and the fire would have been discovered sooner if there had been working smoke alarms.

"Remember to fit smoke alarms to every level of your home and test them each week."

News Bites

Get smarter

A NEW smartphone app which can help you report pot holes is expected be launched in February.

The government has given £30,000 to back the development of the app enabling the Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC), the national cycling charity, to revamp its 'Fill That Hole' website and develop a new app.

The club's current app can be used to report potholed roads to councils across the country but the development could see it attract a wider audience.

Free house!

AN EAST Oxford theatre is opening its doors to the community this weekend.

Pegasus Theatre on the Magdalen Road is holding a free Open House on January 8 and 9.

Route change

A NUMBER of changes are being made to the City4 bus route to help improve reliability and meet changing travel patterns.

As of January 26, there will be changes to the route in Wood Farm and improvements to the service on the Cumnor section, where the City4 will now run every 20 minutes. The short section to Dean Court will be withdrawn.

Road finally open after flood damage

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

A MAJOR road linking Oxford and Abingdon has reopened, exactly 12 months after flood damage caused a 60m section of road to slip down the hillside.

The A4183 between Hinksey Hill and Bagley Wood has been shut since December 20, 2012, after heavy rain led to flooding across the county.

Months of ground surveys and drawing up designs for the repair work followed, before the £1m project to rebuild the embankment, install a new drainage system and resurfacing 200m of road could begin in July.

Oxfordshire County Council was also in dialogue with the adjacent landowner and with utility companies, who carried out repair work to the underlying gas and water mains in the embankment.

Cllr David Nimmo Smith, cabinet member for transport, said: "Twelve months ago, we had to close this road after months of above average rainfall culminated in flooding across the county in November and December.

• *Cllr David Nimmo Smith at the reopening of the road, which has been shut since December 20, 2012*

"It has been an enormous task to undertake all the necessary survey work, come up with the solution and then the physical repair work itself.

"We appreciate that local people, bus users and others have been significantly affected by the need to close the road – the sheer scale of the underlying problem meant this was never going to be a quick task.

"I congratulate our highways department who acted quickly to protect the damaged road and to direct traffic to alternative routes.

"They have been meticulous in making sure a job of immense scale and complexity has been successfully completed.

"However we said we would have the job done by the end of 2013, and exactly 12 months on from the original closure we are now able to re-open it.

"Above all I am delighted for the local residents and I thank them for their patience throughout the last year."

'Blue whale' amount of litter removed

A SERIES of mass clearouts of rubbish in Cherwell has seen the equivalent to the weight of a blue whale removed from the streets.

Throughout the year, Cherwell District Council's environmental services team undertook six blitzes on estates in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington, clearing litter, flytips, graffiti and dog mess.

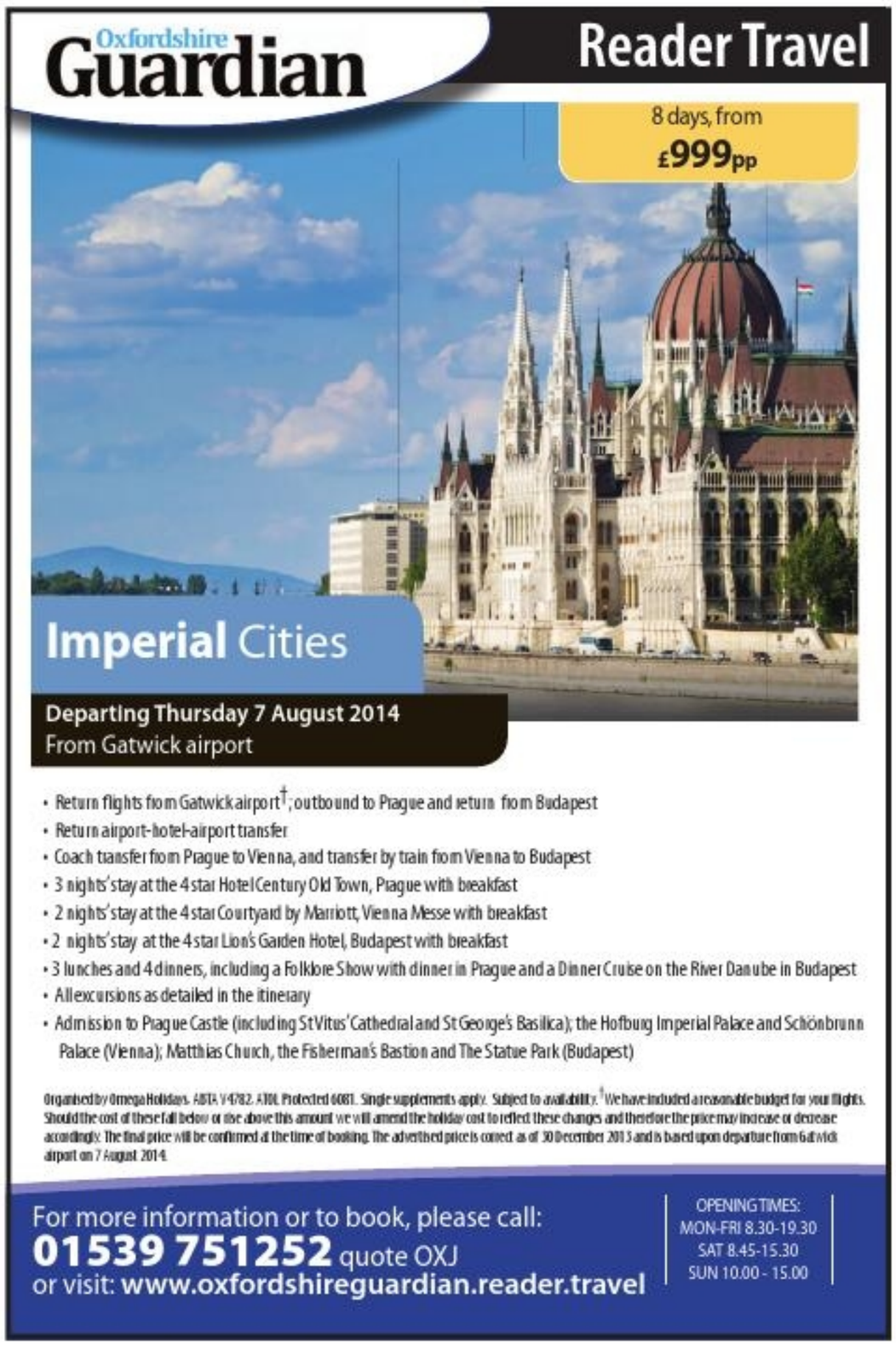
During each blitz teams of six spent five days and an average of 180 hours removing a total of 105 tonnes of rubbish across the year.

Cllr George Reynolds, deputy leader, said: "When you put into context the size of an adult blue whale and equate that to the weight of rubbish removed through our blitzes it just goes to show the difference they make.

"These blitzes are carried out in addition to our street cleansing services, which we provide 365 days a year so the problem of litter and flytipping is even more far reaching.

"Maybe a new resolution for 2014 could be for everyone, not just the majority, to take pride in where they live and put litter in the bin."

As part of the blitzes Cherwell staff also spoke to 400 residents about waste, recycling and environmental issues and handed out 350 bags of free compost. The scheme will continue in the new year.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News Bites

Car stolen

A VEHICLE was stolen in Radley after its owner left it insecure and the engine running in order to melt ice from the windscreen.

At 10.35pm on December 19, a black BMW 120D was taken from outside a house in Sugworth Lane.

Call 101 with information. Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers.

Lucky escape

FOUR people escaped a potentially fatal fire in Milton on December 21 which was caused by candles.

At 4.30am on December 21, firefighters were called to a first floor fire caused by candles which had not been extinguished prior to the occupants falling asleep.

The family were treated with oxygen therapy.

Post debate

WEST Oxfordshire district councillors have said plans to move the Post Office from the Market Square in Witney to the town's WHSmith shop are "reassuring".

Councillors called a meeting with representatives from the Post Office and WHSmith in response to concerns expressed by residents about the proposed move.

Discussions are set to continue.

Village gets £25m broadband boost

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

• *County Council leader Cllr Ian Hudspeth (front), Ewelme resident Neil Blake (left) and BT's managing director of next generation access Bill Murphy*

RESIDENTS in Ewelme have become the first in Oxfordshire to benefit from a new £25million programme to improve broadband across the county.

A partnership between the county council and BT, forming the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire initiative, will see at least 90 per cent of homes have access to speeds of 24Mbps.

Homes and businesses in Ewelme, near Wallingford, will now see the benefits with download speeds of up to 80Mbps and upload speeds of up to 20Mbps.

Oxfordshire County Council announced the partnership with BT in August and leader Cllr Ian Hudspeth has been pleased with the progress.

"This is an important step forward, and something I am really excited to be involved in," he said.

"Broadband is now seen almost as a utility like water or electricity, yet there are areas where access is non-existent or far too slow.

"However, we are now seeing the first results of our work to bring better broadband to Oxfordshire with the switching on of this cabinet.

"High-speed access to the internet has never been more important whether you are a businessperson wishing to build your company, a student carrying out research or a householder accessing on-line shopping and entertainment.

"In today's rapidly moving world, fast and sophisticated communications are absolutely vital. They are an essential part of future success."

Openreach, BT's local network business, is deploying fibre-to-the-cabinet (FTTC) technology, where the fibre runs from the exchange to a local roadside cabinet.

Neil Blake, a resident of Ewelme who has been championing broadband access in the village, says he is delighted to see it finally installed.

"This has been a long journey," he said.

"It started with a clear village plan in 2007 and has been doggedly pursued.

"We've been supported by a handful of great people in Openreach and Oxfordshire County Council with a real "can do" approach, and we're delighted we can now give our RAF residents and our youngsters access to services they deserve and need."

More work for pavilion in Carterton

A COMMUNITY sports pavilion in Carterton which is used for RAF Brize Norton repatriations has undergone another major upgrade.

The car park in Monahan Way has been extended, resurfaced and reconfigured, creating an extra 44 parking bays and bringing the total to 80.

An additional three disabled spaces have also been created directly outside the pavilion and a one-way system is being introduced to help with access and parking.

Cllr Richard Langridge, cabinet member for Communities at the District Council, said: "We are keen to support the families of fallen soldiers and we hope this work will make access easier for those wishing to pay their respects to the fallen.

"The pavilion is also used by the community and various sports groups, so this work will benefit local people as well."

The work was done by West Oxfordshire District Council, who own the pavilion, funded by a £76,000 grant from Oxfordshire County Council.

Work was completed earlier this year which saw the creation of a new community room, which can be used as a private area for bereaved families.

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This year at the North Wall

• *Jo Caulfield's new show takes place on February 9*

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

OXFORD'S North Wall Theatre begins 2014 with a range of new shows coming to the Summertown venue, with a mix of theatre, comedy and music.

The dramatic and moving production of Blonde Poison tells the story of Stella Goldschlag, a Jew living illegally in war-torn Berlin who has to betray those in hiding to save herself and her parents from Auschwitz.

For the first time since 2011, the MOBO award-winning group Kairos 4tet perform at North Wall, this time from their critically-acclaimed third album 'Everything We Hold'.

Children's theatre show Nobody Rides the Unicorn takes place on January 25, following the greedy King of Joppardy and cunning Doctor Slythe, who trick young Zoe into helping them catch a unicorn.

Stand-up comic Jo Caulfield presents her 'Celebration of Anger' in February, discussing topics such as arrogant shop assistants, vacuous celebrities and TV quiz shows.

• *Four-piece band Kairos 4tet are at North Wall on January 22*

Theatrical production Ballad of the Burning Star comes to Oxford on February 13, as a cabaret troop invites audiences on a journey into the core of Israel.

March begins with Grandpa's Railway, a production aimed at young children featuring a working model railway, live music and two playful characters.

Comedian Mitch Benn combines his Scouse upbringing and love of music and The Beatles in his latest show, with the satirical twists for which Mitch is well known.

• *Ballad of the Burning Star is staged on February 13 and 14*

The Adventures of Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer are told on March 13, in this theatre production documenting Alvin's quest to the bottom of the ocean to find his wife's lost soul and save humanity.

A full list of North Wall shows, including show times and ticket prices, can be found by going to www.thenorthwall.com or by calling 01865 319450.

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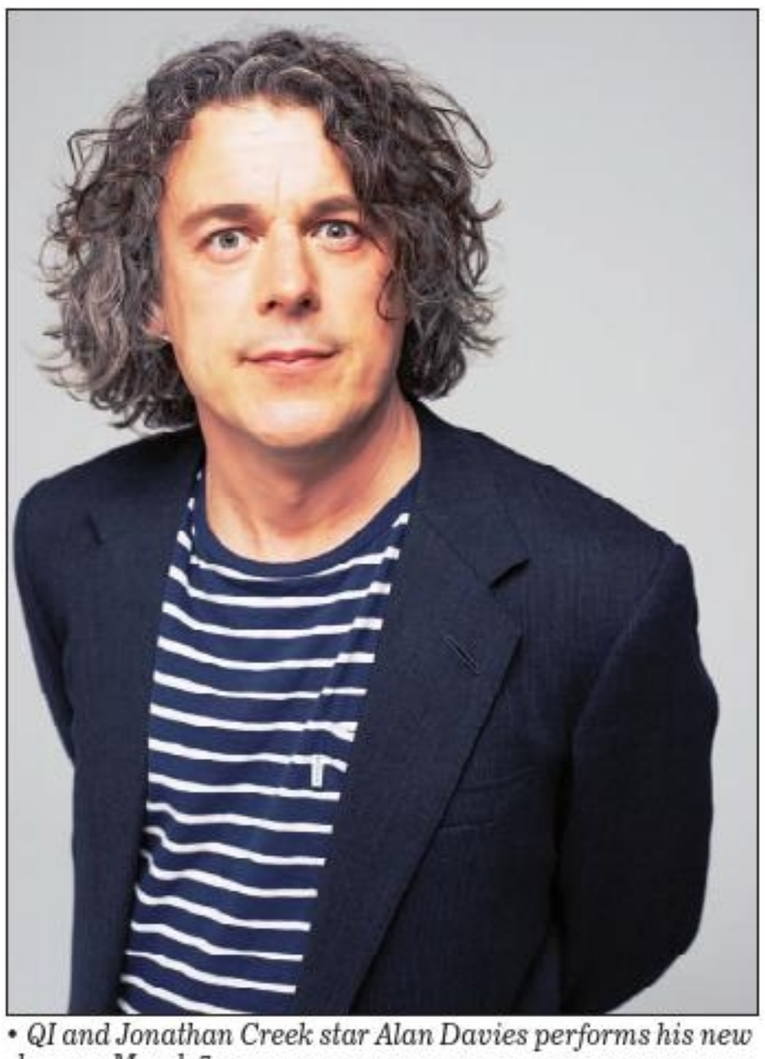
Slide in to Old Fire Station



• *QI and Jonathan Creek star Alan Davies performs his new show on March 7*

OXFORD'S Old Fire Station has announced its latest series of events for the first few months of 2014, with a mix of regular events alongside one-off shows between now and March.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Tuesday sees the first monthly evening hosted by the Oxford Improvisers, as they invite guests to perform new and improvised music, which on this occasion has a New Year theme.

The Anti-Slam puts poets against each other as they try and create the worst piece of poetry they can, where the person with the lowest score is crowned the winner.

Mark Gwynne Jones, Sam Berkson and Zena Edwards host their show The Poetry of Madness, as the three discuss mental illness and how people are affected by it.

Unique one-man play Is he a bit Simon Jay? is being performed on February 1, bringing together character comedy and narrative drama to tell the tragic tale of Simon Rueben Jay.

Audiences can celebrate Valentine's Day Cuban-style with Oxford's own Ran Kan Kan and top Cuban carnival band Orchestra Bombo.

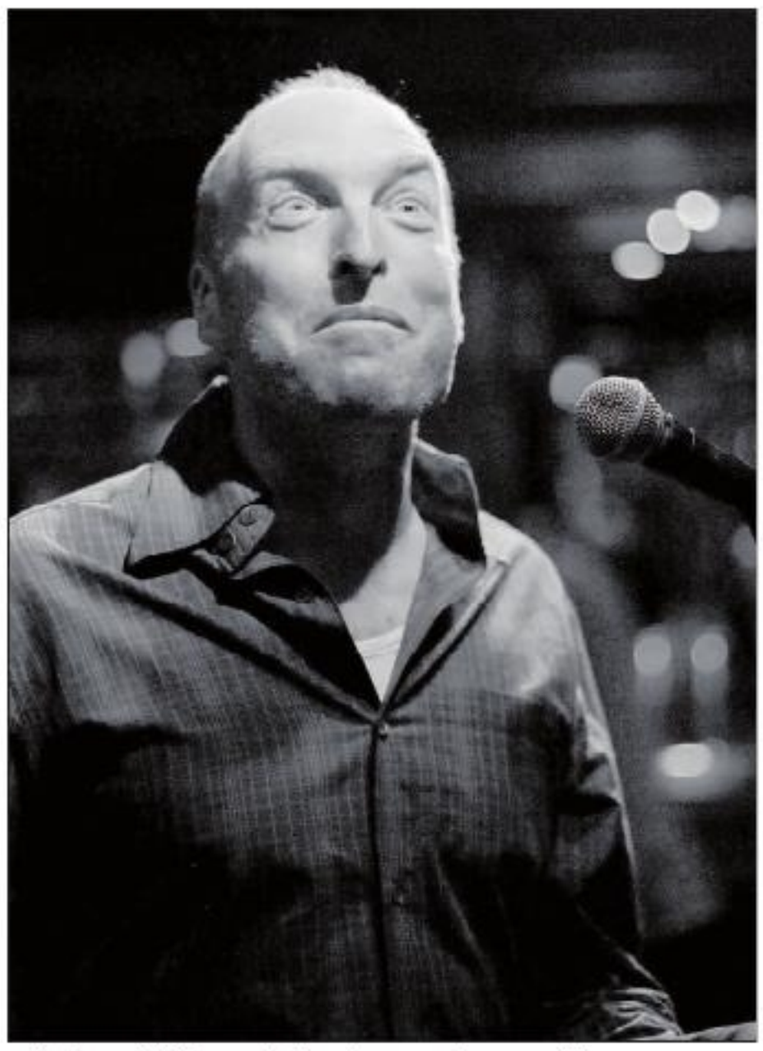
Oxford's 12th Human Rights Festival takes place at the end of February, raising awareness of related issues such as disaster relief, freedom of speech and equality through film and the arts.

Comedian and QI panellist Alan Davies is making his long-awaited return to stand-up with his new show 'Little Victories', coming to the Old Fire Station on March 7.

Scottish band North Sea Gas, made up of Dave Gilfillan, Ronnie MacDonald and Grant Simpson, return with their new show 'Scottish Fire', having received numerous music awards in their illustrious career.

A theatre production of Shakespeare's The Tempest is staged on March 21 and 22 telling the story of Prospero, who is marooned on a desert island and becomes a powerful magician.

A full list of shows, start times and ticket costs can be found at www.oldfirestation.org.uk, or alternatively call 01865 263980.



• *Poetry of Madness takes place on January 25*

Oxfordshire Guardian

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Sunday 29th - 10.00am - 4.00pm, Monday 30th - 10.00am - 4.00pm,
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Entertainment

To advertise in this section please call **01235 511700**. To place a free event listing email the details to **whatson@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk**

4 January - 5 January, 10am - 5pm
Oxford Town Hall
HEAVEN ON EARTH ORIENTAL RUGS EXHIBITION
An exhibition of oriental handmade carpets and tribal rugs, a selective collection by "Heaven on Earth Imports' agent in Iran.
7865051928

8 January - 11 January
Oxford Playhouse
FIJI LAND
fiji land is a surreal and incisive look at what happens when cell doors shut and the world looks away, directed by Oxford Playhouse/ MCS Resident Director Alice Malin.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

10 January, 8pm
Wallingford Town Hall
TALK: 'CHILDREN AND WAR: CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCES OF WW2 IN OXFORDSHIRE'
This talk looks at how the lives of Oxfordshire children, both those born in the county and those evacuated here, were affected by World War II. Visitors (¬£3) are most welcome.
www.twhas.org.uk

11 January, 10am - 12pm
University Parks, Oxford, OX1 3PL
TRY ORIENTEERING AT UNIVERSITY PARKS, OXFORD!
This is an exciting introduction to orienteering, organised by Thames Valley Orienteering Club, and is aimed at newcomers, families and runners of all ages and abilities. There will be longer courses for runners as well as shorter courses for families and children. You can run, jog or walk at your own pace. If you haven't tried orienteering before, we'll help you get started. Just don't forget your sense of adventure! You'll receive a special orienteering map showing your chosen course which will consist of a series of control points. The challenge is choosing your route between each one. At each point in the park, you,'ll find a marker flag and an electronic unit to register your progress around the course, using the small electronic chip we will lend you. Come along any time between 10am and 11.30am and give it a go. Just wear what you would for a run or walk. For more info visit our website at www.tvoc.org.uk, see our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/tvoclub or email us: publicity@tvoc.org.uk"
www.tvoc.org.uk/saturdayseries

12 January, 3pm
Henley Town Hall
ALLEN DIGITAL THEATRE ORGAN - PHIL KELSALL
£7 concessions £6.50
www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk

17 January, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
BLONDE POISON
Stella Goldschlag was a Jew living illegally in war-torn Berlin when she was betrayed and tortured. To save herself and her parents from Auchswitz, she agreed to be a 'Greifer' for the Gestapo.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

17 January, 8:30pm
Carswell Golf and Country Club, Faringdon, SN7 8PU
THE ALAN BARNES QUARTET PLAYS THE MUSIC OF ART PEPPER
Alan Barnes (alto), Craig Milverton (piano, Al Swainger (bass) and Nick Millward (drums).
www.oxfordlivejazz.com 01367 718903.

18 January, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Prv© Music Building
NICK VAN BLOSS (PIANO)
Bach's Goldberg Variations are well known, so why hear them again? Because you,Âôve not heard them played like this!
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

18 January, 7.30pm
Oxford Playhouse
THE ONLY WAY IS DOWNTON
Following a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Fringe and prior to a West End season, acclaimed impressionist Luke Kempner presents tour-de-force comedy.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

18 January, 7:30pm - 9:30pm
St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Road, Oxford OX2 6RX
ST GILES ORCHESTRA CONCERT
Wagner Flying Dutchman Overture Gliere Horn Concerto in Bb arr. bassoon (Shelly Organ) Tchaikovsky Symphony no 2 ""Little Russian"" We welcome back bassoonist Shelly Organ to play a bassoon arrangement of Gliere's lyrical Horn Concerto arranged especially for this occasion by Geoffrey Bushell. Tickets ¬£10 (students/OAPs ¬£9; under 18s free)."
07517487553 SalesStGilesOrchestra@gmail.com

18 January
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www.oxfordplayhouse.com

22 January - 23 January
Cornerstone, Didcot
PAM AYRES
01235 515 144. www.cornerstone-arts.org

23 January, 8pm - 9:30pm
The North Wall, Oxford
366 DAYS OF KINDNESS
Part storytelling, part stand-up, part live documentary, featuring a dinner party with surprise guests including the Dalai Lama, Liam Neeson and Princess Diana, this show attempts to answer the question: is it possible to change the world just by being kind?
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

25 January, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
20.45 Gemma Moss
21.30 Barry & The Beachcombers
22.15 Molotiv Sexbomb
¬£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/250112"
www.gappytooth.com

25 January
Royal Oak Pub, Woodstock Road, Oxford
PLAYHOUSE PLAYS OUT: BURNS NIGHT
Packed with poems and music, this promises to be a joyous celebration of one of Scotland's great poets. A traditional two-course haggis lunch or dinner is also included in the ticket price.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

25 January, 11am - 12pm
The North Wall, Oxford
NOBODY RIDES THE UNICORN
The greedy King and cunning Doctor trick a young girl into capturing the Unicorn. Zoe must set the Unicorn free,Â¶ But will she be putting herself in danger? Puppets, original live music and moments of unexpected magic, blend together to tell this tale, based on Adrian Mitchell's modern classic.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

27 January - 1-Feb-14
Oxford Playhouse
THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG
Tickets: ¬£11 to ¬£26.50. Discounts available.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

31 January, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Prv© Music Building
BERNARD D'ASCOLI (PIANO)
Bernard d'Ascoli offers a delightful programme of piano works.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

Saturday 18 January
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AUTOWEEKLY

A worthy and capable effort

REVIEW: CHEVROLET CRUZE

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

THINK medium sized family hatchback and the usual suspects are likely to enter your mind: Ford Focus, Vauxhall Astra, Volkswagen Golf, and Skoda Octavia, along with newcomers from Kia and Hyundai... but Chevrolet?

In recent years, the American brand has also had its eyes set on the European hatchback market. Now the firm is offering its medium saloon – the Cruze – in hatchback and estate guises.

This new contender to the competitive medium-sized family sector bears very close relation to the perennial Vauxhall Astra, sharing the same platform, running gear and other key components.

Cruze comes in four trim guises. S and LS models get CD/MP3 playback, digital radio, front electric windows, adjustable steering column and manual air-conditioning, with higher spec LT and LTZ benefiting from MP3, iPod connectivity, automatic climate control, cruise control, sat-nav and auto lights and wipers.

A nice touch is the woven fabric material that covers the dashboard and front doors. It looks distinctive and is effective in breaking up the boring mass of plastic.

Inside, the Cruze offers generous amounts of space and great versatility – the extra rear overhang resulting in a 413 litre boot - substantially bigger than Astra's 351 litres and the Ford Focus's 316 litres. Throughout the cabin there's various storage places, including the two-tier glove box, centre console and door pockets incorporating bottle holders, while a central cubby doubles as an arm rest. Seating is comfortable, if a bit firm; the driving position will accommodate drivers of all sizes. The Cruze might not have quite such a sophisticated suspension set-up as the Astra, but on the road, for the most part, you'll be none the wiser – as the Chevrolet feels secure, planted and fluid. The ride can get a bit fidgety on some rougher roads at lower speeds, but on most surfaces it's pliant enough.

The 1.7 litre diesel strikes a skilful balance between offering good economy (62.7mpg claimed) and low CO2 emissions (117g/km), with strong, useable performance. Rather thick B-pillars do slightly block over-the-shoulder-vision when parking, albeit no worse than many cars in this class, but front parking sensors would certainly be a helpful edition.

Verdict:

It might not quite have the polish of the best performers in this class, but nevertheless, it's hard not to be won over with this very worthy and capable effort from Chevrolet.

• *The new Chevrolet Cruze*

New year - new car...

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO2 emissions: 373 - 88g/km.#

Finance available on selected models only. Subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Finance supplied by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. 24-60 month term. **Vauxhall Deposit Contributions vary and exclude Mokka and other selected models. †Fuel offer not available on Zafira, other exclusions apply. £500 free fuel will be paid via pre-paid debit card. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/offers or contact your local Vauxhall retailer for details. Offer will apply to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1- 24. All other customers are excluded. ‡First year insurance offer available on new Corsa models (excluding Expression, S, Sting, Design and VXR). The offer will cover the full premium (motor policy only) for drivers aged between 21-75. Drivers must have held a valid full UK licence for a minimum of 1 year. Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Other insurance specific Terms and Conditions apply. Offer applies to private individuals and Vauxhall Partners. All other customers are excluded. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and Conditions apply. Offers available on new vehicle orders between 27 December 2013 and 13 January 2014. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the all-new Mazda3 range: Urban 37.7 (7.5) - 60.1 (4.7). Extra Urban 58.9 (4.8) - 80.7 (3.5). Combined 48.7 (5.8) - 72.4 (3.9). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 135 – 104.

°Test drives subject to applicant status and avilability. The MPG figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results.

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10 60 MONDEO TITANIUM 2.0 PETROL 1.4PS TITANIUM, 5spd, 5 dr, chill met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio CD, heated windscreen, climate, front fogs, alloys, ABS, ESP, cruise, park sensors,service,

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10 60 FIESTA TITANIUM 1.4 PETROL 96PS, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, cruise, 5 airbags, alloys, r/CD, ABS, ESP, PAS, climate, one owner from new, low miles 15,000, FSH

£9,591

10 10 FIESTA 1.6 TDCI DIESEL TITANIUM, 5dr, hot magenta special met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, cruise, r/CD, climate, 5 a/B, ABS, ESP, PAS, auto lights & wipers, HFS, fr fogs, B'tooth hands free,

£8,995

10 10 FIESTA 1.6 TDCI DIESEL TITANIUM, 5dr, hot magenta special met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, cruise, r/CD, climate, 5 airbags, ABS, ESP, PAS, auto lights & wipers, HFS, front fogs, Blue tooth hands free, rear park sensors, 2 owners from new, FSH, RFL £20 per year, 35,600 miles

£8,995

13 13 B MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS, 5 dr, midnight sky/grey, 5 spd, City pack, e/w&m, Ford Sync, power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, HFS, ABS, multiple airbags, alloys, ex-demonstrator, low mileage 3,000, RFL £30 per year

£15,995

11 60 SKODA YETI 1.2 TSI PETROL SE STATION WAGON, 5dr, silver met/grey, 6 spd, low mileage, service history, 12,000 miles

£11,995

03 53 PEUGEOT 307CC COUPE, black met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, climate control, PAS, alloys, 4 airbags, ABS, rear park sensors, ESP, very low mileage 34,048 miles, 2 owners from new, FSH

£3,995

10 60 KA EDGE 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, crystal white/gry, 5 spd, a/c, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, low mileage, one local owner from new, FSH, £30RFL per year, 23,947 miles

£6,995

12 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC ESTATE, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB r/CD, alloys, a/c, ABS, ESP, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, Blue tooth USB, rear park sensors, 12 months manufacturers warranty, one owner from new, FSH, 17,900 miles

£11,995

11 60 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL SPORT, 5dr, frozen white/grey titanium, sat nav, Bluetooth, USB, rear park sensors, a/c, alloys, HFS, auto wipers & headlamps, front fogs, e/front windows & mirrors, ABS, 6 airbags, one owner, FSH, 33,500 miles

£8,995

MINIMUM £1000 Part X on this car

08 08 FOCUS STYLE 1.6 PETROL 100PS STYLE, 5 dr, ocean blue me/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, a/c, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, low mileage, FSH, 35,959 miles

£6,995

11 11 C MAX 1.6 PETROL 125PS TITANIUM, micastone met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, auto lights & wipers, ABS, ESP, convenience pack includes park assist & folding mirrors, global closing, alloys, very low mileage 5,500 miles, one owner, FSH

£12,595

MINIMUM £1000 Part X on this car

10 10 C MAX 1.8 TDCI DIESEL ZETEC 5 SPD, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, front & rear park sensors, one owner from new, FSH, low mileage 20,325 miles

£8,995

MINIMUM £1000 Part X on this car

59 10 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM, 5dr, vision blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, HFS, a/c, auto headlights & wipers, PAS, DAB radio CD, ABS, ESP, alloys, rear park sensors, 6 airbags, cruise control, titanium alloys heated seats, one owner, FSH, 38,655

£8,995

MINIMUM £1000 Part X on this car

11 11 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LTD 3 DR, White/ gloss black roof & grey trim, 5 spd, Black Alloys, Tailgate spoiler, Elec/ windows & mirrors, radio cd, power steering, air con, 2 airbags, ABS, 39968,

£7,995

13 63 FOCUS 1.0 100PS PETROL ZETEC NAVIGATOR NEW MODEL, 5dr, deep impact blue met/grey, sat nav, Blue tooth & USB, e/w & m, 17" alloys, privacy glass, ABS, EP, reverse park sensors, 6 airbags, 2 years old and 9 months manufacturer's warranty, only £20 RFL per year, 2000 miles, DUE IN SOON

£13,995

MINIMUM £1000 Part X on this car

58 09 KUGA TITANIUM 2.0 TDCI 4WD, moondust silver met/grey, 6 spd, 17" alloys, e/w&m, Sony DAB radio CD, c/l, cruise control, heated screen, front fogs, a/c, FSH, 34,429 miles

£14,995

MINIMUM £1000 Part X on this car

08 08 FUSION STYLE 1.4 PETROL SEMI AUTO CLIMATE, 5dr, sea grey met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, a/c, r/CD, PAS, 2 airbags, front fogs, ABS, service history, one owner from new, 36,900 miles

£4,995

MINIMUM £1000 PART EXCHANGE

10 60 KA ZETEC 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, blush met/grey, 5 spd, climate con, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, PAS, r/CD, alloys, ABS, 2 airbags, front fogs, low mileage, 2 owners from new, 26,725 miles, FSH ..... MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR £7,295

08 08 FUSION STYLE 1.4 PETROL SEMI AUTO CLIMATE, 5dr, sea grey met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, a/c, r/CD, PAS, 2 airbags, front fogs, ABS, service history, one owner from new, 36,900 miles ..... MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR £4,995

59 10 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM, 5dr, vision blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w & m, HFS, a/c, auto headlights & wipers, PAS, DAB radio CD, ABS, ESP, alloys, rear park sensors, 6 airbags, cruise control, titanium alloys heated seats, one owner, FSH, 38,655 miles ..... MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR £8,995

08 08 FOCUS STYLE 1.6 PETROL 100PS STYLE, 5 dr, ocean blue me/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, a/c, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, low mileage, FSH, 35,959 miles. £6,995

10 10 C MAX 1.8 TDCI DIESEL ZETEC 5 SPD, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated screen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, front & rear park sensors, one owner from new, FSH, low mileage 20,325 miles ..... MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR £8,995

10 60 MONDEO TITANIUM 2.0 PETROL 1.4PS TITANIUM, 5spd, 5 dr, chill met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio CD, heated windscreen, climate control, front fogs, alloys, ABS, ESP, cruise, front & rear park sensors, PAS, 7 a/b, auto lights & wipers, Blue tooth, service history, one owner from new, 35,814 miles ..... MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR £9,495

58 09 KUGA TITANIUM 2.0 TDCI 4WD, moondust silver met/grey, 6 spd, 17" alloys, e/w&m, Sony DAB radio CD, c/l, cruise control, heated screen, front fogs, a/c, FSH, 34,429 miles ..... MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR £14,995

11 11 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LTD 3 DR, White with gloss black roof & grey trim, 5 spd, Black Alloys, Tailgate spoiler, E/w & m, R/CD, PAS, Air Con, 2 Airbags, ABS, 39,968, ONE OWNER FROM NEW, S/HISTORY. MINIMUM £1000 PART X ON THIS CAR £7,995

FIESTA

10 60 FIESTA 1.25 PETROL ZETEC, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, HFS, a/c, PAS, ABS, ESP, alloys, rear sensors, r/CD, 5 airbags, one owner, very low mileage, 2,900 miles, DUE IN SOON £8,995

10 10 FIESTA 1.6 TDCI DIESEL TITANIUM, 5dr, hot magenta special met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, cruise, r/CD, climate, 5 airbags, ABS, ESP, PAS, auto lights & wipers, HFS, front fogs, Blue tooth hands free, rear park sensors, 2 owners from new, FSH, RFL £20 per year, 35,600 miles £8,995

10 60 FIESTA TITANIUM 1.4 PETROL 96PS, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, cruise control, 5 airbags, alloys, radio/CD, ABS, ESP, PAS, climate, one owner from new, low mileage 15,000 miles, FSH. £9,591

FOCUS

11 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC AUTO, 5dr, panther black met/grey, e/w&m, 6 spd auto, air con, Blue tooth, alloys heated screen, front fogs, DAB radio & CD, one owner from new, very low mileage 9,000 miles, DUE IN SOON £11,595

11 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC, 5dr, midnight sky met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio & CD, PAS, Blue tooth, alloys, front fogs, heated windscreen, ABS, ESP, 29,000 miles £10,395

08 08 FOCUS 1.8 PETROL 125PS STYLE, 5dr, panther black/grey, c/l, r/CD, e/w&m, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, ESP, 2 owners from new, service history, 53,446 miles. £5,595

06 06 FOCUS 1.8 TDCI DIESEL SPORT, 5dr, aquarius blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, ABS, 2 owners from new, service history, 52,424 miles £4,895

12 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC ESTATE, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB r/CD, alloys, a/c, ABS, ESP, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, Blue tooth USB, rear park sensors, 12 months manufacturers warranty, one owner from new, FSH, 17,900 miles £11,995

11 60 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL SPORT, 5dr, frozen white/grey titanium, sat nav, Bluetooth, USB, rear park sensors, a/c, alloys, HFS, auto wipers & headlamps, front fogs, e/front windows & mirrors, ABS, 6 airbags, one owner, FSH, 33,500 miles. £8,995

10 10 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL TITANIUM, 5dr, chilli met/grey, 5 spd, e/w & m, a/c, HFS, auto h'lights & wipers, PAS, power start button, key less entry, DAB r/CD, rear park sensors, cruise, heated seats, 6 airbags, ABS, one owner, FSH, low mileage 23,758 ..... £8,995

13 63 FOCUS 1.0 100PS PETROL ZETEC NAVIGATOR NEW MODEL, 5dr, deep impact blue met/grey, sat nav, Blue tooth & USB, e/w & m, 17" alloys, privacy glass, ABS, EP, reverse park sensors, 6 airbags, 2 years old and 9 months manufacturer's warranty, only £20 RFL per year, 2000 miles, DUE IN SOON £13,995

11 11 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 115PS ZETEC, 3dr, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, Blue tooth USB, air con, ABS, ESP, front fogs, HFS, r/CD, alloys, one owner, FSH, 5 months manufacturer's warranty, very low mileage 20,000 miles, DUE IN SOON £9,595

C MAX S MAX B MAX

11 11 GRAND C MAX 1.6 TDCI 116PS TITANIUM 7 SEAT DIESEL, midnight sky met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio & CD, heated windscreen, PAS, auto lights & wipers, climate control, Blue tooth connectivity, 8,000 miles, DUE IN SOON £13,995

12 12 S MAX 1.6T ECOBOOST 160PS TITANIUM, panther black met/grey, 6spd, e/w&m, r/CD, c/l, Blue tooth connectivity, HFS, climate, auto lights & wipers, front fogs, cruise, PAS, one owner, full service history, very low mileage 6,200 miles ... £16,595

11 11 C MAX 1.6 PETROL 125PS TITANIUM, micastone met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, auto lights & wipers, ABS, ESP, convenience pack includes park assist & folding mirrors, global closing, alloys, very low mileage 5,500 miles, one owner, FSH £12,595

13 13 B MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS, 5 dr, midnight sky/grey, 5 spd, City pack, e/w&m, Ford Sync, power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, HFS, ABS, multiple airbags, alloys, ex-demonstrator, low mileage 5,400 miles, RFL £30 per year £15,995

KA

10 60 KA EDGE 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, crystal white/gry, 5 spd, a/c, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, low mileage, one local owner from new, FSH, £30RFL per year, 23,947 ..... £5,995

11 61 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, crystal white/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, JULIANS SUPPLIED, ONE OWNER FROM NEW, 20,629 miles £5,595

OTHER MAKES

07 07 MAZDA 3 SPORT D 2.0 DIESEL 143PS 5DR HATCH, black mica/grey, 6 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r & 6CD player, PAS, climate, front fogs, 8 airbags, ABS, ESP, service history, 61,414 miles £5,395

11 60 SKODA YETI 1.2 TSI PETROL SE STATION WAGON, 5dr, silver met/grey, 6 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r & 6CD, PAS, climate control, front fogs, 8 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, front and rear parking sensors, park assist, roof rails, one owner from new, very low mileage, SH, 12,000 miles £11,995

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03 53 PEUGEOT 307CC COUPE, black met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, climate control, PAS, alloys, 4 airbags, ABS, rear park sensors, ESP, very low mileage 34,048 miles, 2 owners from new, FSH £3,995

03 53 FOCUS GHIA 2.0 PETROL AUTO ESTATE, deep rosso red met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r & 6 CD player, PAS, climate, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 4 airbags, ABS, traction control, 3 owners from new, service history, low mileage for age 73,281 miles £3,495

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2007	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTI ESTATE HIGH MPG, E/W, E/M, A/C 114,000 SILVER	£3,495
2005	PEUGEOT 407 ESTATE HDI. 6SPD, SAT NAV, LEATHER, A/C ++ 131,000 WHITE	£2,495
2004	NISSAN MICRA 1.4 AUTO 5DR, VGC, A/C, CD, LOW MILES 34,000 BLUE	SOLD
2001	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 LS. NEW MOT, E/W, A/C, E/M 86,000 GREY	£995
2000	ROVER 75 2.5 V6 AUTO, ALLOYS, A/C, LEATHER/HEATED SEATS 60,000 BLUE	£1,495
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2006	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 AUTO 5DR, CD, A/C, FSH 79,000 GREY	£3,795
2002	AUDI A4 ESTATE 3.0 QUATTRO SPORT. GREAT SPEC. 125,000 GREEN	SOLD
2002	AUDI A2 1.6 CD, E/W, E/M, MANUAL, 5 DR. 76,000 BLACK.	SOLD
2007	VX ZAFIRA 1.6 E/W, TOW BAR, PRIVACY GLASS, CD, A/C. 61,000 GREY	£4,995
2007	VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI 16V COUPE 1.4. CHEAP INSURANCE, A/C, ALLOYS. 84,000 BLUE	SOLD
2005	FORD KA. LOW MILEAGE, LONG MOT, SERVICE HISTORY. 62,000 SILVER	£2,495
2007	ALFA ROMEO GT JTDM 16V LUSSO. A/C, 6 SPEED, LEATHER, FSH 49,000 SILVER.	£7,995
2006	VX ASTRA SRI CDTI ESTATE. 6 SPD, P/SENSORS, FSH, 78,000 BEIGE	£4,995
2007	VAUXHALL ASTRA TWINTOP. 1.6 SPORT GREAT SPEC, TAXED. 78,000 SILVER	£4,995
2005	FORD FOCUS 1.6 SPORT. A/C, CD, E/M, COLOUR CODED 75,000 SILVER	£3,995
2005	FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI GHIA. A/C, CD, E/W, E/M 112,000 GREY	£2,995
2003	FORD STREET KA. CONVERTIBLE. A/C. E/W. CD PLAYER. 57,000. RED	£2,795
2004	FORD FOCUS C-MAX. 1.8. LONG MOT & TAX 95,000 BLUE.	£2,795
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2009-09	HONDA CIVIC 2.2 CDTI SE, Black, 5 Door, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, ALLOYS, 80300 Miles	£6,495
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2007-57	HONDA CIVIC 1.8 SE, Red, 5 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 42600 Miles	£5,995
2005-55	MINI ONE CONVERTIBLE, Blue, 2 DR, RCL, PAS, EW, Alloys, Rear Parking Sensors, 59200 Miles	£5,695
2007-07	HONDA CIVIC 1.8 SE, Grey, 5 Door, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, ALLOYS, 69200 Miles	£5,495
2008-58	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 MATCH, Grey, 5 Dr, CL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 34672 Miles	£5,295
2005-55	MERCEDES BENZ C160 1.8 SE, Silver, 3 Door Coupe, RCL, PAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 50800 Miles	£4,995
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2010-60	CITROEN C1 VT 1.0, Red, 5 Dr, PAS, Dual Airbags, £20 a Year Road Tax, 23740 Miles	£4,795
2009-59	TOYOTA AYGO 1.0 VVT, Red, 3 Dr, PAS, Driver & Passenger Airbag, CD Player, 29370 Miles	£4,795
2008-08	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXPRESSION, Silver, 3 Dr, RCL, pAS, EW, AC, Alloys, 33460 Miles	£4,795
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MIRA Gem thermostatic shower +instructions (3yrs old) £85 07952909075

LITTLE Tikes children's adjustable roller boots (size 6.5-8.5) £4ono 07952909075

VARIOUS games, puzzles, toys and books (3-5yrs) mostly £1-£2 07952909075

GUITAR collection, Offers, 01491 833671

NEXT maternity 2 tops and trousers size 10 £5ono 07952909075

SINGLE Disney princess duvet cover and pillowcase £7ono 07952909075

4-MAN tent, never been used in bag still, £75, 07704 031646

RAINBOWS uniform - polo top, hoodie and trousers suit 5/6 yrs £20ono 07952909075

BAG of girl's clothes suit 5/6yrs £20ono 07952909075

BAG of boy's clothes suit 3/4yrs £10ono 07952909075

BOOKS suit 2-5yrs 07952909075

BRAND NEW swimming woggle/noodle - yellow £4.50ono 07952909075

JACK and Jones, black mens jacket large with detachable hood vgc, £15, 01235 221074

GIRL'S school uniform: grey trousers (age 5/6 and 8), M&S grey pinafores (age 7), M&S blue checked dress (6/7yrs) 07952909075

GARDEN furniture, metal 4 chairs round table 27" needs painting, £60ono, 07514 128540

FOAM sofa bed, ideal for kids to sleep on never been used oatmeal loose cushions, £75, 07704 031646

PETROL mower, 15" blade rotary type, £30, 07896 535494

DVD, video compact disc player with handset and scart lead excellent condition and working order, £12.5, 01865 873137

LADIES real suede coat, new with fur collar size 12 32" length cost £80 never been worn, £20, 01865 873137

PARKY My Autobiography, new by Michael Parkinson never been used or read cost £19.99 unwanted gift, £5, 01865 873137

FRENCH Connection, green mens jacket large faux fur collar and lining excellent condition, £25, 01235 221074

FRENCH Connection, mens wool coat black excellent condition extra large £35 01235 221074

1000 piece, Gibson jigsaws all complete, £1.25 each, 01865 460174

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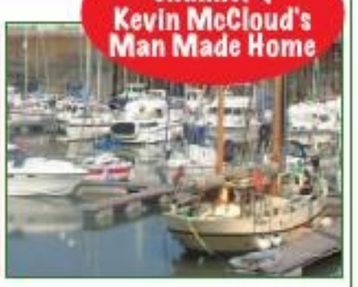

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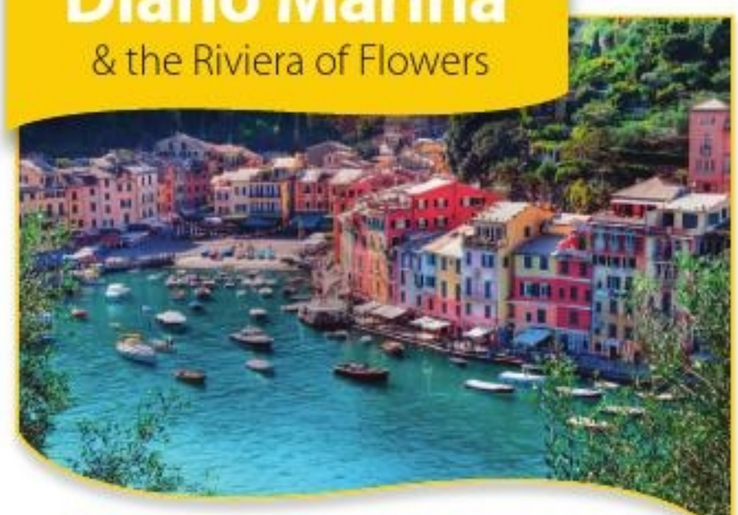

Saturday departures, 7 June and 6 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

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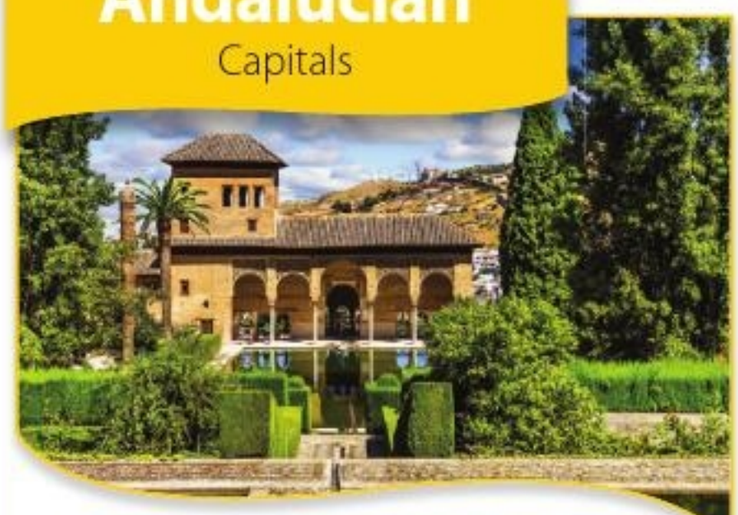
Andalucian
Capitals



Thursday departures, 12 June and 4 & 25 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

Just across the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco, Andalucia is simply one of the most beautiful and unspoilt corners of Europe. Its stunning cities are steeped in history with a culture influenced by the Moors and the Romans which is enriched by the greatly contrasting surrounding landscape.

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- Includes 3 excursions; to Cordoba, Granada & Seville

Includes Escorted Excursions

7 days by **AIR**, from **£759pp**

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Malta & Gozo
The idyllic islands

Tuesday departures, 6, 20 & 27 May and 7 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

8 days by **AIR**, from **£739pp**

Set in the heart of the Mediterranean, the idyllic island of Malta has been described as one big open-air museum, with so much of its past being visible today including ancient temples and palaces, the world's oldest surviving free standing stone structures and red telephone boxes! A cultural gem bursting with a rich, diverse heritage, stunning scenery, great cuisine and an endearing charm.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malta†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Park Hotel**, Sliema with dinner & breakfast
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- A visit to Valletta including admission to The Malta Experience
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Includes Escorted Excursions

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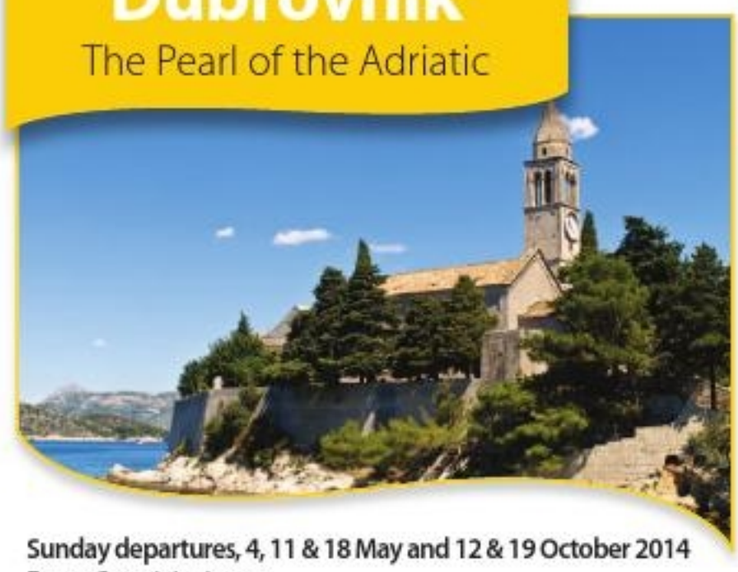
Dubrovnik
The Pearl of the Adriatic



Sunday departures, 4, 11 & 18 May and 12 & 19 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

The magnificent old walled city of Dubrovnik is steeped in historical, architectural and artistic treasures boasting spectacular Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Set against a backdrop of wooded hillsides and with stunning views of the Dalmatian coastline, it is easy to see why George Bernard Shaw thought idyllic Dubrovnik was quite simply "Paradise on Earth".

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Dubrovnik†††††
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Grand Hotel Park**, Dubrovnik with dinner & breakfast
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to the island of Korčula and a cruise around the Elaphite Islands

Includes Escorted Excursions

8 days by **AIR**, from **£759pp**

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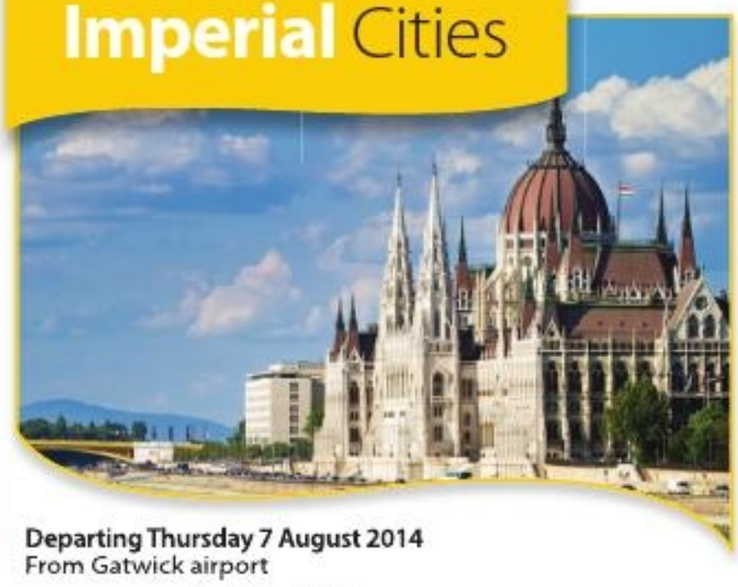
Imperial Cities



Departing Thursday 7 August 2014
From Gatwick airport

- Return flights from Gatwick airport††††††; outbound to Prague and return from Budapest
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- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Courtyard by Marriott, Vienna Messe with breakfast
- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Lion's Garden Hotel, Budapest with breakfast
- 3 lunches and 4 dinners, including a Folklore Show with dinner in Prague and a Dinner Cruise on the River Danube in Budapest
- All excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- Admission to Prague Castle (including St Vitus' Cathedral and St George's Basilica); the Hofburg Imperial Palace and Schönbrunn Palace (Vienna); Matthias Church, the Fisherman's Bastion and The Statue Park (Budapest)

Includes Escorted Excursions

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Madeira
Winter Sun

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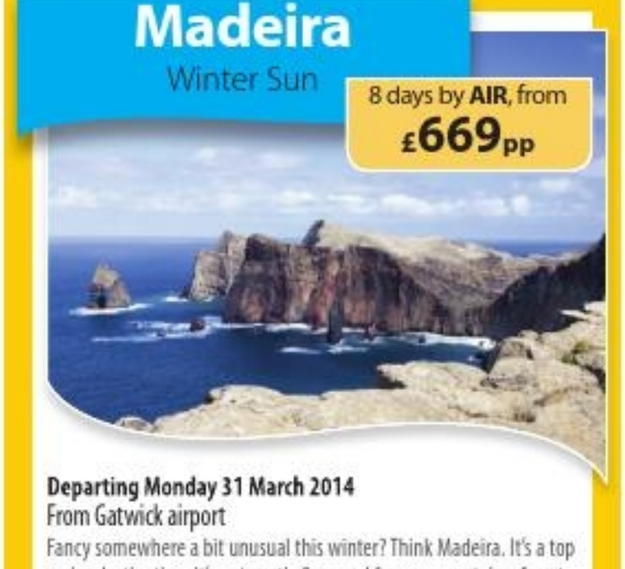

Departing Monday 31 March 2014
From Gatwick airport

Fancy somewhere a bit unusual this winter? Think Madeira. It's a top cruise destination, it's got exotic flora and fauna, mountains, forest, great food and nightlife too, but none of the party crowds. Plus it's got year-round Goldilocks weather, not too hot and not too cold, but just right!

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Wilder blasts team after 'worst display of season'

• *Ryan Williams battled for the ball in Oxford United's defeat to Plymouth on Boxing Day (Picture by Steve Daniels)*

AN ANGRY Chris Wilder pulled no punches in his post-match assessment as Oxford United slipped to consecutive defeats for the first time this season following a 2-0 loss to Scunthorpe on Sunday.

Goals in each half from Deon Burton and David Syers saw Russ Wilcox's side leave the Kassam with all three points, just three days after the U's Boxing Day home defeat to Plymouth Argyle.

Both sides missed penalties – Ryan Clarke dived to his right to keep out a Burton spot-kick when it was 1-0 after Deane Smalley handled a corner.

The former Chesterfield striker had a golden chance to bring Oxford back into the game eight minutes from time, after strike partner James Constable was felled by visiting keeper Sam Slocombe.

Slocombe, who might have seen red on another day for the foul, brilliantly kept out Smalley's effort

But it was the manner of Sunday's loss that left a bitter taste in Wilder's mouth.

"In four parts of the game – tactically, technically, physically and mentally – we were second best," he said.

"We didn't deserve anything from the game. It was by far and away our poorest performance of the season.

By James Booker
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"We've escaped – they deserved to have won by a couple more at least. If our penalty had gone in, and we had gone on to get something out the game , it would have been an absolute travesty.

"They know that display was unacceptable to me and unacceptable to the supporters.

"I don't want to see that again, and they know that.

"We were second best all afternoon, we made poor decisions and we gifted them their first goal, and the second one was another mistake.

"They played like the home side, and we made poor decisions in every area in every part of the game.

"They made good decisions, their centre-halves were strong and they took no chances.

"Their midfield players got on the second ball, and their front players, especially in the second half, were a constant threat."

Oxford travelled to fellow promotion hopefuls Newport County on New Year's Day, after the Guardian went to press.

Sport Bites

Stars are in the semis

OXFORD City Stars have become the first team to qualify for the semi-finals of the English National League's South Division 2 Cup.

Stars beat Bristol Pitbulls 5-1 on December 29, seeing them top Group 2.

They return to league action this Sunday when they host Swindon Wildcats.

Lynch signs on at Oxford

RUAIRI Lynch has re-signed with Oxford Rugby League ahead of this year's Kingstone Press Championship 1 season.

Lynch, who plays in the backrow, made one appearance for Oxford last year and says his aim is to perform to the best of his ability.

The new season begins in March.

Hope for top seed Hedman

OXFORDSHIRE'S Deta Hedman faces Lorraine Farlam in the first round of the World Darts Championship at the Lakeside.

Hedman, the number one seed, was knocked out in the first round last year and lost in the final to Anastasia Dobromyslova in 2012.

She plays her opening match on January 7.

Zoldan confident United can climb table after decent run

ABINGDON United manager Andy Zoldan believes there is no reason why his side cannot lift themselves up the table after an encouraging set of results.

Josh Crook and Kieran Cochrane fired United to a 2-0 win over basement side Abingdon Town on Boxing Day, building upon their 1-0 victory against Brimscombe & Thrupp a week earlier.

Defeat at Highmoor Ibis on December 28 ended a two-match winning run but United now have 15 points in the Hellenic Premier Division and are only second from bottom in the table on goal difference.

Six points out of a possible nine has seen United close in on Newbury, Holyport and Shrivenham and Zoldan believes his side can move up the league.

"We have proved that we can compete and beat teams in the league," he said.

"Newbury's form is not particularly good. Shrivenham managed to win their first game in six weeks so their form is not great.

"Holyport are exactly the same, they seem to be losing week in week out so if we can start picking up points I don't see any reason why we can't bridge the gap. We've still got some tough games to play ourselves so I've got to be realistic in how many points we can pick up but there is a lot more optimism that we can now push on and bridge the gap."

United face 15th placed Bracknell Town this Saturday.

• *Abingdon United midfielder Josh Cottrell goes past an Abingdon Town player during the 2-0 win on Boxing Day (Picture by Chris Janes)*

Town look to bounce back

WANTAGE Town will look to make up ground on Hellenic Premier Division leaders Ardley United as they welcome Wootton Bassett Town to Alfredian Park this Saturday.

Three postponements in succession last month has seen the Alfredians fall six points and three games behind Ardley.

However, Richie Guy fired them to a 1-0 win over Bracknell Town on December 28 as they returned to action after a two-week lay off.

Ardley took full of advantage of Wantage's lack of action, extending their unbeaten run to eight games with wins over Oxford City Nomads and Flackwell Heath and a stalemate at Thame United.

Elsewhere, Kidlington's cup runs mean they have games to make up.

Despite a 2-1 win over Reading Town on December 28, they are down in 12th having only played 19 league matches. Meanwhile, Oxford City Nomads enjoyed a convincing 4-1 Boxing Day win over Kidlington.

This Saturday, Ardley host Binfield, Kidlington travel to Highworth Town, Nomads visit Holyport and Thame welcome Highmoor Ibis.

Solihull too good for battling City

OXFORD City surrendered their three-month unbeaten home record to high fliers Solihull Moors on Saturday.

The home side started brightly, with Adam Learoyd inches away from turning in a Winters corner and Winters himself shooting over from a good position.

However, it was the visitors who opened the scoring on 20 minutes when Peter Till fired home past Mark Scott.

Scott also saved well from Omar Bogle and Junior English to keep Mike Ford's team in the game.

City started the second half with renewed purpose as the Solihull goal led a charmed life with City piling on the pressure.

Dominic Langdon deflected Winters' corner onto his own crossbar while Callum McNish and Jamie Cook saw efforts saved by Jas Singh.

However, the vistors made the game safe after an hour when Bogle outpaced the City defence before shooting low past Scott.

• *Words and picture by Mike Allen*

Guardian Sport

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More Sport inside: Football: Zoldan confident United can climb table after decent run | Ice Hockey: Stars are in the semis

RAILWAYMEN ARE ON A ROLL

New man Ofori hailed as Didcot enjoy an unbeaten Christmas

DIDCOT Town striker Germaine Ofori has been praised for his immediate impact at the club after helping the Railwaymen to successive wins over the festive period.

Ofori, on loan from Reading Academy, scored on his debut on Boxing Day as Didcot beat North Leigh 2-1 before netting a brace in the 3-2 victory at Cinderford Town two days later.

Joint manager Ian Concannon is delighted with how the teenager has begun his time with the Railwaymen.

"He's been terrific," said Concannon.

"He's very direct, got quick feet and the boy can finish.

"The lads have made him feel very welcome and he has made a difference.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"We only have Millsy (John Mills) up front, with Pablo (Haysham) being suspended, Ben (Whitehead) has played up front and done well but Germaine gives us something different.

"People forget he is only an 18-year-old lad and we're lucky to have him."

Ahead of their game at Thatcham Town on New Year's Day, Didcot were on a three-game unbeaten run and were 17th in Division One South & West.

The Railwaymen took seven points from five matches during a difficult December where they faced four teams in the top half of the table.

However, Concannon and Jamie Heapy's attentions now focus on an important January where Diddy face five teams in the bottom half.

Didcot faced 19th-placed Thatcham on New Year's Day, host Shortwood this Saturday and also face Bishops Cleeve, Stratford, Swindon Supermarine and Evesham.

"It is another massive month for us," Concannon said, "December was extremely tough but in January we play teams in the bottom seven and sides who are in and around us.

"It is important we pick up points and if we do our season, in theory, could be different."

Providing Didcot's game at Thatcham went ahead on New Year's Day, Haysham and Kameron Abbassi are both set to return from suspension when Shortwood United travel to the Loop Meadow Stadium this weekend.

Cinderford Town	**2**
Didcot Town	**3**

• *See inside sport for full story (Picture by Mike Allen)*

Second defeat on the spin for stuttering U's

OXFORD United slumped to their second defeat in a row for the first time this season after going down 2-0 at home to Scunthorpe on Sunday evening.

Goals from Deon Burton and David Syers saw the Iron go above the U's in the League Two promotion chase.

Both sides also saw penalties saved – Clarke saved from Burton while Sam Slocombe brilliantly denied Deane Smalley.

Manager Chris Wilder was furious with his side's display, and pulled no punches in his post-match analysis.

The loss to Scunthorpe came on the back of a 3-2 Boxing Day reverse at the Kassam against Plymouth Argyle.

For the full story, and Wilder's match reaction, see inside sport.

• *James Constable is denied by former United keeper Luke McCormick in Oxford United's Boxing Day clash with Plymouth Argyle (Picture by Steve Daniels)*

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